



Winter 2005
Volume V-Issue 1



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Downtown News



In the Spotlight The Imperial Centre For Arts and Sciences

The Imperial Centre project is taking shape on the north end of the downtown and will open on schedule in January, 2006. The rehabilitated Imperial Tobacco Company facility, an industrial version of a medieval Romanesque fortress, will house the Children's Museum and the Arts Center. The old Braswell Memorial Library located on Church Street will be an instructional arts center. And the new construction 300-seat theater is taking shape across from the new library.

For more information on this exciting project, tune into "From the Manager's Desk" daily on C.I.T.Y. TV19 at 1AM, 9AM, 2PM and 8PM as City Manager Steve Raper interviews Assistant City Manager and Imperial Centre Project Manager Peter Varney.

Central City Revitalization Panel Finalizing the Downtown Action Plan

The Central City Revitalization Panel (CCRP) is finalizing the Downtown Action Plan. The Plan sets forth the return of prominence of Downtown Rocky Mount. The Downtown Action Plan envisions a mixed-use area in which to live, work, shop and have fun. It bridges the best of the area's past with promise for the future. The Plan calls for the sensitive restoration of the city's largely intact historic fabric through the public-private partnership paradigm. The Plan lists goals and strategies around the five downtown revitalization concepts of: Economic Restructuring, Design, Marketing/Promotion, Organization and Transportation.

The plan, undergoing its final edit, will be available for viewing in the coming weeks at the Braswell Memorial Library, City Hall and in the Downtown section of the City's website.

"An environment that cannot be changed invites its own destruction. We prefer a world that can be modified progressively against a background of valued remains, a world in which one can leave a personal mark alongside the marks of history."



-Kevin Lynch, "What Time is this Place"
and in the Action Plan's Executive Summary.

Hanging Flower Baskets to go up on Main Street in Springtime



Be on the lookout for colorful hanging flower baskets on lampposts on both sides of Main Street from Thomas Street to the Railroad Station. The program is being coordinated by the Office of Downtown Development and the Parks Department. The flowers, which are presently being grown, will be housed in special pots that afford plenty of air to keep the plants cool, and watered by a summer intern. The flowers' grand appearance should coincide with the final day of the Twin Counties Great American Cleanup on April 16th.

Downtown Merchants Group Schedules Regular Meetings

The new Downtown Merchants Association convened its first meeting on Tuesday, February 15th at the Board Room of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce. The group discussed what they liked and disliked about the area and resolved to meet the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30PM.

The group will be forming committees including quality of life and promotions, among others. Meetings of the group are open to anyone interested in improving and promoting downtown. For more information or to get involved, contact Eddie Baysden at 973-1222.

City to Reconvene Downtown C.A.R.T.

The City of Rocky Mount will re-activate the Community Assistance Response Teams or C.A.R.T in the downtown area. C.A.R.T. will walk through all downtown properties to assess possible fire and safety violations or other prospective problems. "C.A.R.T. was established to aid neighborhood community action groups, assisting them in maintaining or improving overall quality of life in affected communities as it relates to local government's role in assuring safe and livable communities." C.A.R.T. team composition is as follows: (1) Building Official, (1) Community Code Official, (1) Zoning Official, (1) Fire Prevention Official, (1) Police Department Official, and (2) two representatives from each neighborhood community group if so desired by the neighborhood community group. For more information contact Richard Strickland at 972-1112.

Investment Opportunities

116 & 120 Tarboro Street- 2 small commercial buildings for sale by owner. Diagonally across from the People's Bank Building. Contact Bill Delello at (252) 984-0776.

Tarboro & Washington Streets- For lease. Beautifully renovated professional office space. Contact Diane Eckland at (919) 528-2999

114 NW Main Street- For lease. Small historically renovated storefront with mezzanine level. Contact Darin Scott at (252) 451-1400

The properties listed above are only a partial listing of investment opportunities in the central city area. This information is published solely to promote the public interest in revitalization of the central city as part of the overall economic improvement of the City of Rocky Mount. Neither the Downtown Development Office nor the City of Rocky Mount has any intent to act in any capacity as an agent for the sale or lease of these properties. For further information call 972-1267.

New Restaurant Opens!

God is Love Country Cooking Restaurant has opened at 103 Marigold Street. It is open from 6AM-6PM. Call for Take-Out at 442-1043 or stop in for a meal or dessert.